

Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 22, 2016

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Room C, Ipswich Town Hall

Attendees:

Members:

Wayne Castonguay
Casey Wright
David Feldman
Will Holton
Ralph Williams
Katie Hone

Absent:

Andy Brengle

Staff:

Michelle Vaillancourt

Associates:

Sissy Ffolliott
Ed Monnelly
Carolyn Britt
Larry Eliot

Planning Board Liaison:

Kathy Chadwick

Meeting Agenda

1. Citizen queries – there were no citizen queries
2. Minutes approval from December executive session and January meeting – Ralph Williams moved and Katie Hone seconded to approve the December executive session and January meeting minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Report from Open Space Manager
 - Beth O'Connor was not able to be at the meeting (Michelle gave her report Open Space Program Stewardship Update))
 - Nichols Field Public Outreach and Virtual Tour Video – a volunteer produced a video to promote and publicize open space public access properties. After review by ConsComm, approval was not given to post to local cable access channel. OSA will determine if volunteer has the time to make requested revisions.
 - Peatfield Street River Access – Coordinating with IRWA to create/improve signage. Will draft a management plan with coordination through ConsComm.
 - The Echo Reservation Conservation Restriction Baseline Report – Will conduct CR Baseline Monitoring site visit and preparing report for ECGA regarding the property off of Linebrook Road. CR draft is almost ready for submission to the Commonwealth for approval.

- Town Hall Riverwalk Kayak/Canoe Launch – the Public Access Board is very supportive and enthusiastic about funding a public access point for launching kayaks and canoes from rear of Town Hall by the Green Street bridge.
- Open Space Manager will have updates on potential projects during Executive Session

4. Items not reasonably anticipated:

- Ralph Williams mentioned that there are plans in place for development between 195 and 199 High Street
- Ralph also mentioned there is a recent article in the local paper regarding Pony Express and the sales process underway
- Carolyn Britt gave a brief progress report on the Climate Action Plan, which will be brought before Town Meeting in the future to suggest that the town divest in fossil fuel company stocks as part of its investment portfolio.

5. Executive Session for the purposes of land acquisition – Will Holton moved and Casey Wright seconded to enter into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote at 7:45 PM.

6. Executive Session was adjourned at 8:25 PM. It was announced that the next meeting of the Open Space Committee will be on March 28 and that the time will be moved to 7:00 PM (instead of 7:30). David Feldman moved and Ralph Williams seconded to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:27.